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"SAMSON AND DELILAH"

by

Hughes Allison

MUSIC

THREE SWELL AND FADES.

ANNOUNCER

Presenting SAMSON AND DELILAH. Episode TWO of a new  
Harlem detective comedy drama.

MUSIC

THREE UP SWELL AND UNDER.

ANNOUNCER

Ladies and gentlemen: Before we swing out with this  
week's instalment of our Up-Town Odyssey, suppose we  
give Old Father Time slightly and take a peek at what  
happened in Episode ONE.

(THEME IS OUT)

If you remember, we dropped in on the Blue Rhythm  
Ballroom where we found Mae Jones dancing with George  
Wright. Mae, it seems, was a great gal when it came  
to tripping the light fantastic. Also, she was thumbs  
down on the Harlem high browns....particularly where  
George was concerned. But there was something else  
(ANGLE FADING)  
afoot. And Mae was saying to George....

MUSIC

DRAMATIC THREE UP AND UNDER.

MAE

(FADE IN) You know....I wish dere wasn't no job tonight.

GEORGE

Yeah? How come?

MAE

It's the feeling I got. Like something AWFUL was going  
to happen. (FADE)

MUSIC

DRAMATIC THREE UP AND UNDER.

GEORGE

(FADE IN) Who's yo' girl-friend, Ross?

Boss Sally....meet Mae and George. (FADE)

MUSIC DRAMATIC THEMES UP AND UNDER.

George I sain so she I tripped. Dat Sally PUSHED me!

Mae Aw forgit it! And let's have one mo' dance before....

George (INTERRUPTING) The most important part of the job sain't done yet! And you wants to dance! Well....jest one mo' dance and den we'll go downstairs to the check-room. (FADE)

MUSIC DRAMATIC THEMES UP AND UNDER.

Mae (FADE IN) The clasp! It sain't here! Police! Police!

George Who wants to know?

Samson What you's yelling for. The LAW....in person!

Delilah I didn't steal it! I've never stolen anything in my life.

Samson (CLOSE) Mr....didn't he call you....Delilah?

Delilah Yes.

Samson My name's Samson. You and me ought to git along.

Samson AND Delilah. (FADE)

MUSIC DRAMATIC THEMES UP AND UNDER.

Boss (FADE IN) Quit stalling! I cant use the phoney you switched on us. In this case handing over the REAL clasp might save your LIFE! (CLOSE) Who's this guy, coming over this way?

Delilah The manager, Mr. Brown. (FADE)

MUSIC DRAMATIC THEMES UP AND UNDER.

SOUND DOOR OPENS. TWO SHOTS. DELILAH SCREAMS. FOOTSTEPS RUNNING AWAY. DEATH GURGLE OF MAN. DIAL PHONE. PHONE RINGS AWAY THROUGH DELILAH'S RECEIVER. (CUE)

Samson (VOICE THROUGH RECEIVER) Hello?

Delilah Samson this is Delilah. I just got home. Before I go... turn on the light

DELILAH (Cont'd) could turn on the light, I heard two shots. And some one ran out of the apartment. When I switched on the light....George Wright was on the floor. DEAD! He's been murdered!

SAMSON (VOICE THROUGH RECEIVER) Dont let nobody in but ME! And dont TOUCH nothing 'til I git dere. 'Cause dis is the LAW talking!

AUDIO DRAMATIC THEMES UP. (CUT SHORT)  
(PAUSE)

LOUD DOOR CLOSING.

SAMSON Now....where the body at?

DELILAH Over there!

SAMSON (GOING AWAY FROM MIKE) Fesh! Laying flat on his back, right by dat little desk. Now....lemon see....

DELILAH (COMING TO MIKE) And just look at my house! Everything torn apart....clothes scattered all over the floor. Even the towels in the bathroom were dumped in a knot in the middle of the tub. You'd think it was Hallowe'en from the looks of things.

SAMSON I'll jest roll him over....on his face. (PAUSE) Dere now!

DELILAH I haven't touched a thing. In fact....I haven't been this close to him since I telephoned you.

SAMSON And I never lost no time gitting here neither!

DELILAH Thanks....for coming right over. (PAUSE) You know, Samson....I feel....well, kind of comfortable with you looking into this....instead of....

SAMSON (INTERRUPTING) I thought you tolle me over the phone dat dere was TWO shots.

DELILAH I did tell you that. There were two shots.

SAMSON Yeah? But dis dude aint sporting but ONE bullet hole.

DELILAH Let me see? (PAUSE) Hmnn-huh!

SAMSON Now....where was you when the shooting started?

DELILAH There....by the door. It was dark. I couldn't find the light switch. I heard the shots before I got the lights turned on. And some one dashed out of the apartment before....

SAMSON (INTERRUPTING) Who was it?

DELILAH I dont know! I hadn't turned on the lights.

SAMSON (GOING AWAY FROM MIKE) You say, you was standing over here?

DELILAH There! Right where you are now.

SAMSON (AWAY) Hmmm. What's dis?

DELILAH That is what?

SAMSON (AWAY) Dis hole....right by my head?

DELILAH (COMING TO MIKE) A hole in the wall by the side of the door? I've never noticed it there before.

SAMSON Wait'll I git out my knife. (PAUSE) Now....let's have a look. (PAUSE) Dis blade's too big. I'll <sup>try</sup> ~~A~~ dis little one.

DELILAH I'm SURE that hole wasn't there....

SAMSON (INTERRUPTING) You're mighty right it wasn't. Look!

DELILAH A bullet!

SAMSON Yeah! Number two.

DELILAH But....but WHY would some one want to shoot me? Of course, if it was just a common burgler....but then George Wright was in here when I arrived. Oh! this is all so mixed up!

SAMSON Yeah! (HE SUSPECTS SHE HASN'T TOLD ALL SHE KNOWS)  
Aint it?

DELILAH Why....why are you looking at me....like that, Samson?  
(PAUSE) Well, dont just stand there....and stare at  
me....as if I were a....murderer!

SAMSON You wouldn't try....to mix ME up....now would you?

DELILAH Try to mix YOU up! Why Samson....I just dont seem....

SAMSON (INTERRUPTING) Directly after I left you at the Blue  
Rhythm Ballroom tonight....I went home and got my  
Bible. Den I set down and turned pages 'til I come  
to where it tells about Samson and Delilah.

DELILAH Well?

SAMSON Hushh! Dat po' boy in the Bible what's got my name  
didn't have a chance. 'Cause dat woman....in the same  
story what's got yo' name....had the Indian Sign on  
him from the very start!

DELILAH But that was ANOTHER story!

SAMSON And you know....what dey say 'bout history! It re-  
peats itself....like a motion picture. And it looks  
like I come in,right in the middle of the show!

DELILAH You dont think I'd treat you like the Biblical Delilah  
treated the Biblical Samson....do you?

SAMSON Who said....I was going to take dat chance?

DELILAH Well Samson! Dont forget it was YOU who was struck  
by the similiarity of our names to those of the Biblical  
characters.

SAMSON And didn't DAT Delilah take DAT Samson for a ride!  
Whew! WHEW!

DELILAH What's in a NAME?

SAMSON      Dynamite....according to the Bible....when it go on  
                to tell about the woman YOU'S named after. But I aint  
                waiting for the explosion. And I'm talking WAY above  
                a whisper!

DELILAH     Listen Samson! Once I saw a movie....all about two  
                people named Romeo And Juliet. Their families were  
                enemies but....but Romeo and Juliet,to say the least  
                ....were very, very fond of each other.

SAMSON     You're telling me!

DELILAH     Well Juliet said: "What's in a name? That which we call  
                a rose, by any other name, would smell as sweet."

SAMSON     I seen dat same movie. And how did it end? Romeo  
                got plenty of headaches, chasing after Juliet! And he  
                finished up wid a bellyful of poison! But aint nothing  
                like Dat going to happen to ME. Not to Sergeant Detective Samson Williams!

DELILAH     But what are you going to do?

SAMSON     Look! Let's jest sort of coast back over what's happen  
                tonight.

DELILAH     Okay! I think it's a good idea.

SAMSON     Hmmm! Well I trucks over to the Blue Rhythmn Ballroom  
                early dis evening. And what does I find? YOU....in  
                a argument wid two people named Mae Jones and George  
                Bright. Dey claims you stole a high price diamond  
                clasp off Mae's coat. But nobody kin find dat clasp.  
YOU's got a smooth tongue....and lots of looks. And  
                what happens. I falls for sweet words and plenty of  
                pretty-pretty....and lets everybody go home. And NOW  
                you calls me to come to yo' apartment. What does I find?

SAMSON (Cont'd) The latest candidate for the morgue. And his name's George Wright!

DELILAH But look at my apartseent! It's all....

SAMSON (INTERRUPTING) I got eyes to see! All upset....like somebody was looking for something. Now....it wouldn't be dat diamond clasp....would it?

DELILAH What do you mean?

SAMSON Well....suppose it was in here and....

DELILAH (INTERRUPTING) But how could it have got here?

SAMSON Sister, dat's an easy one! You picks it off the coat in the checkroom....and SENDS it here by somebody you got working wid you. Old stuff! Old Stuff!

DELILAH But the dead man?

SAMSON Another easy one! HE knows you got it all the time. He takes a chance on it being in dis apartment. He comes to take a look. Right about den....you unlocks the door....and bang! The undertaker's got a job. Den you fires another bullet in the wall....so's I'll see it when I come.

ROUND JINGLE OF HANDCUFFS.

DELILAH (FRIGHTENED) What....what are you going to do with....

SAMSON (INTERRUPTING) Dees handcuffs? Put 'em on you!

DELILAH Samson....wait a minute. Listen to me. Wait....please! Talk....and talk fast!

DELILAH I didn't do it! Honest I didn't! I didn't steal that clasp. But I've got a good idea who did. I didn't kill George Wright....but if I.....we....you and me....if we can find the person who has that clasp....we'll have George Wright's murderer.

SAMSON Sister....you aint doing nothing but punishing yo' guns. Now....dees handcuffs wont hurt unless....

DELILAH Suppose I DIDN'T steal that clasp! And you arrest me. Suppose I DIDN'T kill George Wright! And you charge me with murder. And suppose ANOTHER detective clears me! Do you know what that'll make you, Samson?

SAMSON What? I'll bite!

DELILAH The BIGGEST sap....in all Harlem! (PAUSE) Now....give me a chance to work with you....so I can clear myself to your satisfaction.

(SLIGHT PAUSE)

SAMSON And what would you start off wid?

DELILAH George Wright's apartment is just above mine. If we went up there and took a look....we might find something that might help.

SAMSON Okay. (GOING AWAY FROM MIKE) His keys ought to be in his pocket. I'll git 'em and play yo' game....for awhile.

DELILAH There's lots I haven't told you yet and....

SAMSON (INTERRUPTING) Dat aint news. But DIS is: One bad move out of YOU, Delilah Berry, and I'll make you hate the day you was born. And dis is the LAW talking!

SOON MUSICAL BRIDGE. CLICK OF LIGHT SWITCH. DOOR CLOSER.

SAMSON Well!

DELILAH Shy....why his apartment is as upset as mine!

SAMSON You said it! Somebody is sho looking for something. And if it was here....day got it! Cause dis place is been searched from beginning to end.

DELILAH Who ever was here....was looking for that clasp. You know, I wonder....

SAMSON You wonder what, Delilah?

DELILAH I wonder....how many more people will have to die.... before its found?

SAMSON Hush dat death talk! Dat's the one thing I dont like about dis dee-tective job. People gitting killed.

DELILAH Maybe....I'm next.

SAMSON what you talking about? You's next? For what?

DELILAH After you left the Ballroom tonight, and while I was in the checkroom....

SAMSON Yeah?

DELILAH A man came over to my aisle. He was one of the couple we were looking for....when I danced with you.

SAMSON How come you didn't call somebody?

DELILAH I didn't have a chance! Before I could do anything about it....well! he was gone.

SAMSON what he want?

DELILAH He thought I had the clasp. The REAL one, he said. Apparently, he thought I had switched clasps..... double crossed him or something. Anyway, from what he said, I know I was right about HOW the clasp got got out of my aisle.

SAMSON Yeah?

DELILAH That woman....the one who came and left with him.... took it when she entered the aisle to fix her slip.

SAMSON Was she wid him....when he come back the last time?

DELILAH No....he was alone.

SAMSON what else he say?

DELILAH He was pretty set....about me having the clasp. And he told me....if I didn't hand it over....CURTAINS.

SAMSON She you aint got it?

DELILAH (EXASPERATED) Aw Samson! Dont be a fool!

SAMSON Look our dere! Mind how you speaks to the LAW!

DELILAH Please trust me, Samson. You did when....when you first met me tonight.

SAMSON Dat was BEFORE I read the Bible. Shew! SHEW! What dat Delilah did to dat Samson. Cut his hair off....so he couldn't pull off his strong-man act! Put his eyes out! And den caused him to pull a whole, great big house down....so it killed him and everybody in it.

DELILAH But that SECOND bullet, Samson! The one in the wall of my apartment. That MUST have been meant for ME.

SAMSON (DUBIOUS) Hmmm....maybe....

DELILAH I KNOW somebody was trying to kill me. I know it! And they'll try again.

SAMSON (CLOSE TO MIKE) Say....come here. (PAUSE) Closer! Well?

SAMSON I jest want to look in yo' eyes. Dont git me wrong!

DELILAH And what do you see?

SAMSON (DUBIOUS) You is telling me the truth? You is scared?

(PAUSE) Aw but....but what kin any man tell....jest by looking in a woman's eyes!

DELILAH Maybe you haven't looked close enough....or long enough. Samson....I really am sincere. Honest! (LAUGHING) Just listen at me! Begging you to believe in me. And I dont know WHY!

DOOR BELL RINGS.

SAMSON (WHISPERING) I wonder who dat is?

DELILAH (WHISPERING) What are you going to do?

SAMSON (WHISPERING) Day done seen the light under the door  
....who ever it is.

DELILAH Maybe....if we just wait....they'll go away.

SAMSON (WHISPERING) Dont talk so loud. Day'll hear you.

LOUD DOOR BELL RINGS AGAIN.

DELILAH (WHISPERING) I wonder who it can be?

SAMSON (WHISPERING) Dis time of night too! Well I jest GOT  
to know!

DELILAH (WHISPERING) What do you mean?

SAMSON (WHISPERING) You open the door and....

DELILAH (WHISPERING AND INTERRUPTING) Me?

SAMSON (WHISPERING) Sho! I'll git back of the door....so when  
it opens....who ever comes in wont see me. And jest  
to sake sho!....I'll have my gun out and ready. The  
way dat door opens....I kin shoot through the crack  
it makes at the hinges into the hall. Now....go ahead  
and open it. (PAUSE) Dont be scared.

LOUD DOOR BELL RINGS AGAIN.

DELILAH Can I help it if I'm shaking?

SAMSON (WHISPERING AND EXAGERATED) Mind how loud you talks!

(PAUSE) Okay! Pull it open. I got you covered!

LOUD DOOR OPENS.

BROWN Were you asleep, Delilah?

DELILAH (STARTLED) Why Fred! Mr. Brown, I mean.

BROWN Fred....will do. I just had to come, Delilah!

DELILAH But....but why?

BROWN Well....well, when we were talking in the checkroom  
tonight....after the detective had gone....I never did  
finish what I was trying to say.

DELILAH But how on earth did you know I'd....I'd be in THIS apartment?

BROWN Delilah, I hadn't intended to tell you this....just now anyway. But I'm planning to give up the ballroom. Oh, it's a swell job....pays me and all that! Still there must be something else I can do in Harlem....on my own....besides managing a dance hall. Anyhow, in a few days I expect to have enough money to go in business for myself. (PAUSE) Well? I know it's late to be paying you a call....but couldn't you ask me in for....oh just a few minutes?

DOOR SLAMS SHUT.

SAMSON Yeah! Ask him to come in, Delilah!

BROWN Hell! The detective! But why the gun?

SAMSON I'll ask the questions!

BROWN I didn't expect to see you here.

SAMSON But you DID expect to see Delilah here, sint dat so?

BROWN Say....do you mind pointing that gun somewhere else? Better still....put it in your pocket. Or where ever you keep it.

SAMSON So' biggest worry 'bout dis gun....is dat I dont use it on you!

BROWN Delilah....what is this all....

SAMSON I'LL ask the questions.

BROWN Very well....ASK the questions.

SAMSON Dat's better. Now! You come to DIS apartment....looking for Delilah, didn't you? (PAUSE) Didn't you? (LAUGHING) I've said nothing about ANSWERNIN your questions. And anyway....what a foolish thing to ask me!

DELILAH      Fred! This is....

SAMSON      (INTERRUPTING) Keep quiet, Delilah!

BROWN      Dont you talk to her like that!

SAMSON      Oh! YOU want to git tough, huh?

BROWN      In just about two seconds....I'll take that gun away  
from you and make you eat it!

SAMSON      Yeah? Try it....and yo' next meal will be wid the  
angels! And dis is the LAW talking!